

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:RBARKLEY
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 098287

STADIS/////////
EXDIS FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM VEST

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SOPN, GW

SUBJECT: FRG MEDIA CRITICISM OF THE US

1. WE HAVE BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT THE GENERAL NEGATIVE MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE ADMINISTRATION IN THE FRG IN THE MORE RECENT PERIOD. ALTHOUGH WE ARE PROBABLY UNABLE TO DO MUCH ABOUT PRESS CRITICISM ON SPECIFIC ISSUES, WE THINK WE CAN DO A BETTER JOB OF DEVELOPING A MORE ACCURATE UNDERSTANDING OF US POLICIES AND PROGRAMS.

2. HENRY OWEN, AS A RESULT OF HIS RECENT TRIP TO BONN, HAS SUGGESTED THAT THREE OR FOUR MAJOR FIGURES FROM THE GERMAN MEDIA SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO VISIT WASHINGTON FOR INTER-VIEWS WITH HIGH-LEVEL FIGURES IN THE ADMINISTRATION ON POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND DEFENSE ISSUES. THESE INTERVIEWS COULD BE GEARED TO THE NATO SUMMIT IN MAY AND THE JULY
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ECONOMIC SUMMIT IN BONN, MUCH ALONG THE LINES OF THE PROGRAM WE HAVE WORKED OUT FOR THEO SOMMER.

3. IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS FOR JOURNALISTS OR COMMENTATORS WHOSE ORGANIZATIONS ARE INTERESTED IN SENDING THEM, WE WOULD UNDERTAKE TO MAKE THE JOURNEY WORTHWHILE. IF YOU AGREE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS AS TO WHICH ONES MIGHT BE BEST

SUITED TO GIVE US THE BROAD COVERAGE WE SEEK. CHRISTOPHER

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